







Audio Conference Series
**Overview of Public Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program:
 Eligibility, Services, and Career Planning
 for Job Seekers with Disabilities**
 January 17, 2023


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The ADA National Network

 The ADA National Network consists of 10 Regional ADA Centers.
 > 800-949-4232
 > www.adata.org
 Funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR).


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Presenter

Stephen Wooderson
 CEO
 Council of State Administrators
 of Vocational Rehabilitation


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THANK YOU!


- CSAVR
- Vocational Rehabilitation legislative history
- Partnerships
- Eligibility
- Services for customers - individual and business
- Tips and bits
- Resources
- Q&A



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Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation


- Non-profit membership organization
- Governed by the State VR Directors
- Represent 20,000 employees of the federal/state vocational rehabilitation programs
- Provide legislative advocacy and education to membership
- Manage a national network of employers who have shown interest in hiring persons with disabilities
- Headquartered in Washington, DC
- We tell the story of the public VR program!



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CSAVR Operating Principles


VR is driven to deliver inclusive, culturally informed services and outcomes for people with disabilities and business in a system that is free of ableism, racism, discrimination, and institutional bias.



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Operating Principles

- *Principle #1: Innovating Solutions* to achieve greater access to and use of vocational rehabilitation services resulting in the most effective outcome for our customers.
- *Principle #2: Building careers and retaining talent* in America's workforce by investing expertise and resources to benefit our customers.
- *Principle #3: Customizing Services and Expertise* that provide flexible supports and services to meet the workforce goals of our customers.
- *Principle #4: Leading and Engaging in Collaborative Strategies* with our partners who are working with us to achieve greater collective impact at all system levels.
- *Principle #5: Committed to assuring the promotion of diversity, equity and inclusion* for Black, Indigenous, People of Color and all who are legally protected from discrimination.



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WHAT IS THE VISION FOR THE PUBLIC VR PROGRAM? COMPETITIVE INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT


Increasing the workforce participation rate of persons with disabilities



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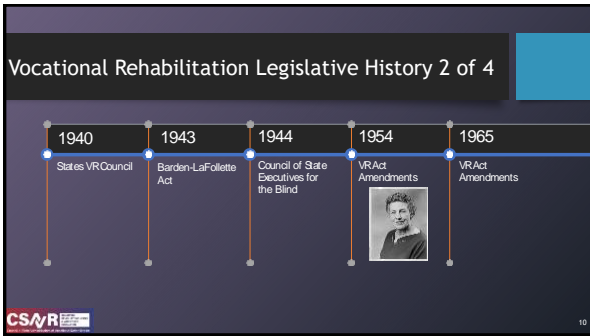
Vocational Rehabilitation Legislative History 1 of 4

1920 Smith-Fees Act 	1927 National Rehabilitation Association	1935 Social Security Act 	1936 Randolph-Sheppard Act 	1938 Wagner-O'Day Act
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Vocational Rehabilitation Legislative History 2 of 4



A horizontal timeline with five points. The first point is 1940: States VR Council. The second is 1943: Barden-LaFollette Act. The third is 1944: Council of State Executives for the Blind. The fourth is 1954: VR Act Amendments, with a small portrait of a woman. The fifth is 1965: VR Act Amendments. The CSVR logo is in the bottom left corner.

Year	Event
1940	States VR Council
1943	Barden-LaFollette Act
1944	Council of State Executives for the Blind
1954	VR Act Amendments
1965	VR Act Amendments

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Vocational Rehabilitation Legislative History 3 of 4



A horizontal timeline with five points. The first is 1967: CSVR Rehabilitation Act Incorporation. The second is 1973: CSVRD.C. Office, with a small image of a building. The third is 1975: NCSAB Incorporation. The fourth is 1978, 84, 86: Rehabilitation Act Amendments. The fifth is 1990: Americans with Disabilities Act, with a small image of a group of people. The CSVR logo is in the bottom left corner.

Year	Event
1967	CSVR Rehabilitation Act Incorporation
1973	CSVRD.C. Office
1975	NCSAB Incorporation
1978, 84, 86	Rehabilitation Act Amendments
1990	Americans with Disabilities Act

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Vocational Rehabilitation Legislative History 4 of 4



A horizontal timeline with five points. The first is 1992: Rehabilitation Act Amendments. The second is 1998: Workforce Investment Act. The third is 2004: Business Forums. The fourth is 2014: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, with a small image of a group of people. The fifth is 2020: VR Centennial! The CSVR logo is in the bottom left corner.

Year	Event
1992	Rehabilitation Act Amendments
1998	Workforce Investment Act
2004	Business Forums
2014	Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
2020	VR Centennial!

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Partnerships

Core Partners

- US Department of Labor
 - Adult, Dislocated and Youth Services, Wagner-Peyser
- US Department of Education
 - Adult Education and Family Literacy, Vocational Rehabilitation

Additional partners

- HHS, USDA, DOL, HUD

Key Collaborators

- Centers for Independent Living
- State Rehabilitation Councils
- Community Rehabilitation Programs




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Partnerships Continued

What other disability employment programs are available?

- The **Ticket to Work Program (TTW)** helps people who receive Social Security due to a disability find work and keep their health coverage.
- If you are a veteran with a disability, check out **Veterans ReEmployment** for help with employment, training, and financial assistance.
- Independent Living Centers (ILCs) provide job coaching, training, and information on disability in the workplace to help people with disabilities maintain their independence.



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Eligibility

To qualify for VR services, an individual must:

1. Have a physical or mental impairment that presents a substantial barrier to employment; and be able to benefit from VR services to achieve employment.
2. Need VR services to prepare for a job, or to get, keep, or regain a job.

People who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits are considered eligible for VR, unless they are too disabled to benefit.




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Services for individual customers (Direct)
1 of 3

Career Preparation

- Career counseling and guidance
- Informational interviewing and career exploration
- Interest and ability testing
- Vocational evaluation and planning
- Self employment business planning




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Services for individual customers (Direct)
2 of 3

Find a career

- Support in searching and applying for jobs
- Job counseling
- Job placement
- Self employment




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Services for individual customers (Direct)
3 of 3

Support for keeping a career

- Job-site assessment and accommodations
- Assistive technology and devices




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Services for individual customers (Arranged/Purchased)

Additional VRS Services through Community Partners

- Medical and psychological testing
- Work experience while still in high school
- Training and education after high school
- Skills training. This may include:
 - On-the-job training
 - Formal classroom education
 - Job coaching
 - Supported employment




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Services for individual customers (IPE)
1 of 2

Once you are eligible and ready to receive Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services, you and your counselor will develop your Individualized Plan for Employment, often called the IPE. This plan will outline and explain your employment goal as well as the services you will need to be successful in reaching your goal. You and your counselor must both agree to the plan and sign it in order for it to be effective.




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Services for individual customers (IPE)
2 of 2

Your employment goal and IPE can be changed or modified with the approval of both you and your counselor. Your plan will be reviewed officially every year; at that time, you and your counselor will create a new plan (which may be the exact same as the old plan), discuss progress and make sure you're both in agreement, and sign to put it into effect for another year (or until you choose to modify it).




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Services for individual customers (CAP)

If you choose to obtain an advocate outside of VR, you have different options of who to work with, including the Client Assistance Program (CAP) or other disability rights advocates you identify.




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Services for business customers

- Access to talent - National Employment Team
- Disability Awareness Training - ADA
- Assistive Technology consultation
- Customized Training
- On the Job Training
- Apprenticeships
- Referral/collaboration with Core Partners




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Tips and Bits

- 78 State VR agencies - contact agency to complete an application
- Federal funds - State match - State administered
- Variability of available services and needs tests
- Priority of services
- Youth in transition and services for adults
- Appeals and disagreements
- YOUR VOICE




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Resources


- [VR agencies](#)
- [DOL CareerOneStop information](#)
- [Directory of Centers for Independent Living](#)
- [Great Lakes ADA Audio Webinar on Assistive Technology](#)
- [2023 National ADA Symposium](#)



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QUESTIONS




You may type and submit questions in the Q&A area of the Zoom Platform


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Contact Information



Stephen Wooderson
swooderson@csavr.org
 202-604-7880





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Still Have Questions?

Contact your Regional ADA Center

 800-949-4232

 www.adata.org


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Session Evaluation
Your feedback is important to us

You will receive an email following the session with a link to the on-line evaluation

 National Network
Advocates, Guidance and Training on the Americans with Disabilities Act


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 Audio Conference Series

Next Session:
Tuesday, February 21, 2023

One State's Lessons Learned and Best Practices to Creating an Equitable Work Environment in State Government



Registration available at: www.ada-audio.org

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